

# West Sussex Economy Snapshot

**April 2022 (Issue 21)**

West Sussex County Council

This is a monthly 'snapshot' of the West Sussex economy, produced by the County Council's Performance & Intelligence team with contributions from partners. The data presented here is publicly available and any analysis provided is for information purposes only.

This report includes national data that can provide a context to the trends seen from the data in West Sussex.

The latest COVID-19 figures relating to West Sussex are available on the [county dashboard](#).

Previous reports can be found on the [Business West Sussex](#) pages.

If you have any questions relating to the information in this report, please email [business.support@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@westsussex.gov.uk) or [sue.cooper@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sue.cooper@westsussex.gov.uk)

## West Sussex Headlines

Over the last month February to March 2022 there was a decrease of 2.0% in the number of claimants in West Sussex, the same as the regional trend and a slightly higher fall than that seen nationally. The number of claimants fell across all West Sussex districts and boroughs with Worthing having the highest decrease at 6.0%. Crawley continues to have the highest numbers of claimants and the highest claimant count rate – higher than the national and regional rate, with Mid Sussex having the lowest rate.

The most recent data released from the Annual Population Survey on economic activity, which is for the period, January – December 2021, suggests that West Sussex has higher economic activity rates and employment rates than the national and regional average, though not quite at levels seen the previous year. Self-employment rates have dropped over the last year – as they have regionally and nationally.

In terms of economic inactivity – i.e. those people who are not in work, nor looking for work or available to start work, the numbers of economically inactive have increased since the start of the pandemic. The highest percentage increase has been amongst 16-24 year olds, and the highest increase in the count has been amongst the over 50s. There is a significant increase in the proportion of economically inactive who are students since pre-pandemic (year up to March 2020).

From the recently released and relatively new data set on the number of PAYE employees and average monthly pay levels the number of employees on payrolls are continuing to increase toward pre-pandemic levels, and in authority areas except for Adur and Crawley numbers of employees from this data is above that seen before April 2020.

The median monthly pay levels appear to have risen to levels higher than seen at the beginning of 2020. Arun has the lowest median monthly pay level and Mid Sussex the highest. This is experimental data only and subject to some revision.

Job postings are continuing to be the highest in nursing, care workers, as well as amongst programmers and software professionals. Catering related occupations are also in demand - kitchen and catering assistants and chefs.

The numbers of new business incorporations in West Sussex over the last year- April 2021-March 2022 has exceeded the numbers of businesses that have been dissolved or have gone into liquidation, this trend was also seen over the last three months to March 2022. Mid Sussex continued to have the highest number of new business incorporations over that period, as well as the highest number of companies dissolved, or which had gone into liquidation.

In West Sussex the highest numbers of new businesses were seen in the business services sector which also had the highest number of businesses that were dissolved or in liquidation - higher than the number of new businesses.

## National Headlines

There has been some growth in GDP in the UK in February though at 0.1%, lower than the 0.8% growth in the previous month. GDP is now 1.5% above its pre-coronavirus level in February 2020. Services was the main contributor to February's growth in GDP and particularly from tourism-related industries.

The numbers of payrolled employees have continued to increase, driven by the increase in full time employees, and the largest growth sectors have been in accommodation and food service activities. Early estimates indicate that median monthly pay is increasing and has increased by 9.7% compared with February 2020 levels.

From the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICs), the main concern for UK Businesses continues to be input price inflation and energy prices, but also supply chain disruption is another key concern. 14% of businesses trading reported that they are experiencing a shortage of workers in early April 2022, this was more prevalent amongst the businesses with 10 or more employees than micro-businesses. Nearly a quarter of businesses reported that they were using or intending to continue to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model with the impact on improvement to staff's well being the main reason for this.

From the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey 87% of adults reported that their cost of living had increased and most frequently reported reasons was the increase in the price of food, in energy prices and the cost of fuel. Over 40% of respondents said they found it very or somewhat difficult to pay their energy bills.

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 2,114 in March 2022, more than double the number registered in the same month in the previous year (999 in March 2021), this could be due to the government measures put in place to support businesses and individuals during the pandemic coming to an end.

## Inside this report

This report is split into two sections - local West Sussex data and National trends.

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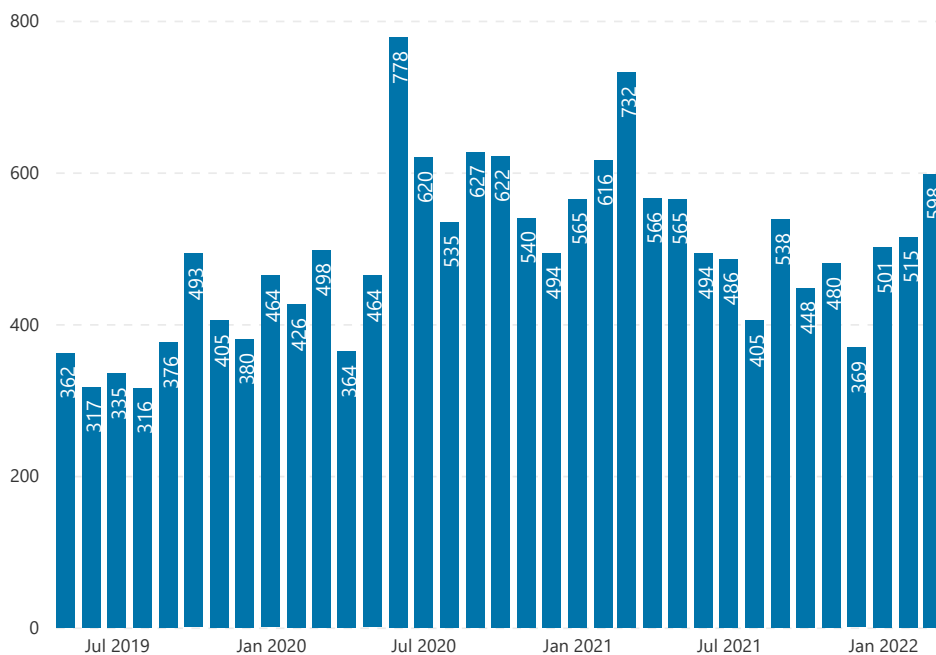
# New Businesses, West Sussex

Source: FAME

Released: March 2022

Lockdown in March 2020 had an impact on new business formation in April and May 2020, but since then new business incorporations have generally increased, and although the time series is volatile, generally at levels greater than previously. In the last 12 months, April 2021 – March 2022 there were around 5,800 new business incorporations in West Sussex compared to 5,300 that had been dissolved or are in liquidation. In the last 3 months, January to the end of March 2022, there were 185 more new businesses than there had been those which have dissolved/in-liquidation.

## New business incorporations in West Sussex



# Businesses, West Sussex

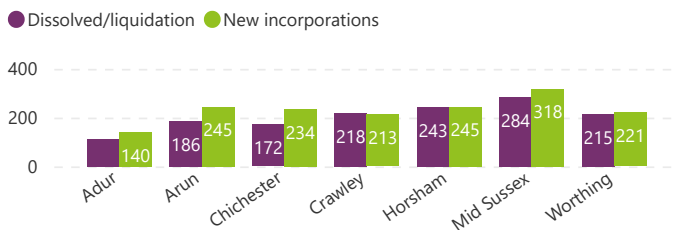
Source: FAME

Released: March 2022

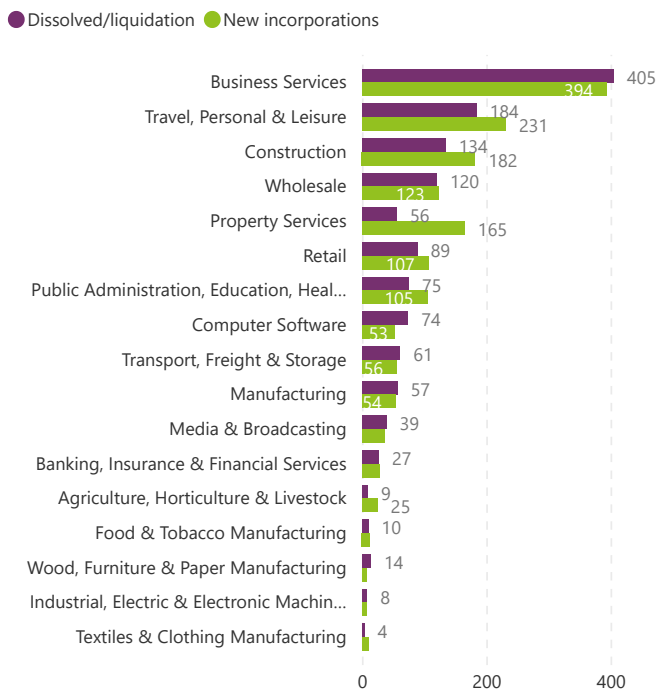
In the first three months of the year – January 2022-March 2022 Mid Sussex had the highest number of new business incorporations and also the highest number of businesses dissolved or in liquidation. Crawley had a couple more businesses that were dissolved than new businesses.

In the same time period – January – March 2022, as previous trends, the highest number of new incorporations in West Sussex were in the business services sector, travel, personal and leisure, and construction sectors. The business services sector also saw the highest numbers of businesses dissolved, indeed during this time the numbers of dissolved businesses in this sector exceeded the number of new business incorporations.

## Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by local authority (Jan 22-Mar 22)



## Number of new business incorporations and businesses dissolved/in liquidation by industry (Jan 22-Mar 22)



# Economic Activity, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 12 April 2022 (Latest Data: Jan 2021-Dec 2021)

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a residence-based labour market survey encompassing population, economic activity, economic inactivity, and qualifications. Some of the data sets are released annually, others are updated quarterly. The APS is a sample survey, it's subject to sampling issues and there have been some changes in the collection of data and sample composition made in data collection during the pandemic, however, it does provide an indication of economic activity trends.

The latest figures published cover the twelve months to Dec'21. West Sussex (78.7%) continues to have higher employment rates compared with that of the South East Region (77.6%) and England (75.1%). Chichester has the lowest economic activity and employment rates in West Sussex. Within the county, Crawley has the highest economic activity and employment rate. Self-employment rate for West Sussex is now at 9.6%, slightly higher than the national rate but lower than for the South East region.

Compared to the year ending December 2019, self-employment rates have generally reduced across all areas, and particularly in the more rural districts of Chichester and Horsham. An exception to this pattern appears to be in Worthing and Arun. Chichester has the highest rate in the county at 16.30%. However, with significant fluctuations in the data in recent quarters, together with sampling issues these figures should be treated with some caution.

## Economic Activity by local authorities

Metric	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64		Employment rate - aged 16-64		% aged 16-64 who are self employed	
	Jan 19-Dec 19	Jan 21-Dec 21	Jan 19-Dec 19	Jan 21-Dec 21	Jan 19-Dec 19	Jan 21-Dec 21
Adur	90.40	86.60	90.40	83.00	15.70	12.90
Arun	80.00	82.00	75.90	79.60	10.80	11.70
Chichester	87.80	73.90	85.20	71.30	21.90	16.30
Crawley	82.80	88.10	79.80	85.10	8.30	2.70
Horsham	83.10	76.80	82.40	74.40	17.30	7.30
Mid Sussex	87.30	84.70	84.00	82.20	9.20	6.20
Worthing	83.40	81.00	80.90	76.20	13.10	13.60
West Sussex	84.50	81.70	82.00	78.70	13.40	9.60
South East	82.00	80.80	79.50	77.60	12.50	10.50
England	79.20	78.70	76.00	75.10	11.10	9.50

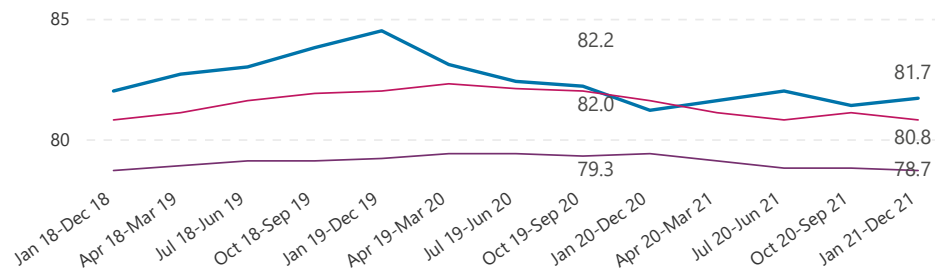
# Economic Activity, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 12 April 2022 (Latest Data: Jan 2021-Dec 2021)

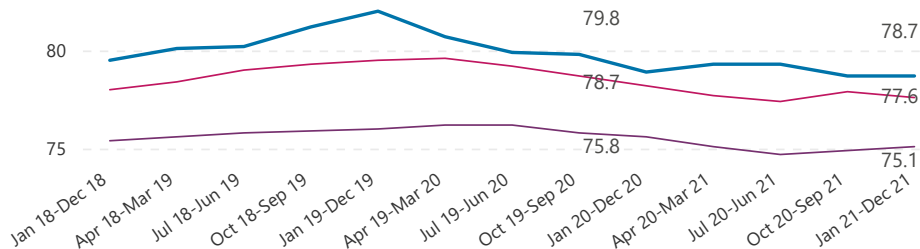
## Economic activity rate - aged 16-64

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



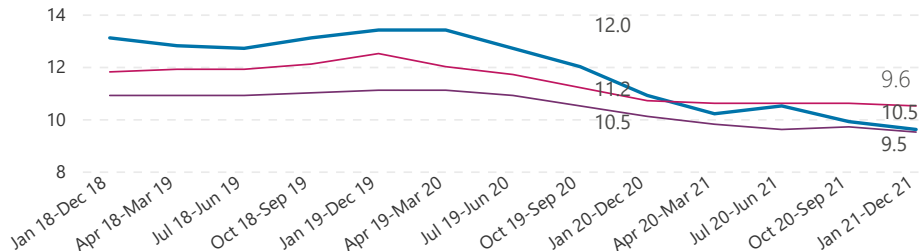
## Employment rate - aged 16-64

● West Sussex ● South East ● England



## % aged 16-64 who are self employed

● West Sussex ● South East ● England





# Economically Inactive, West Sussex

Source: Annual Population Survey

Released: 12 April 2022 (Latest Data: Jan 2021-Dec 2021)

Economically inactive are those who are not in employment who have not been seeking work and/or are unable to work. This group includes people who are retired, those looking after family, those who are long term sick and students. In West Sussex, there are higher numbers of economically inactive than there were before the pandemic, and the numbers are continuing to rise.

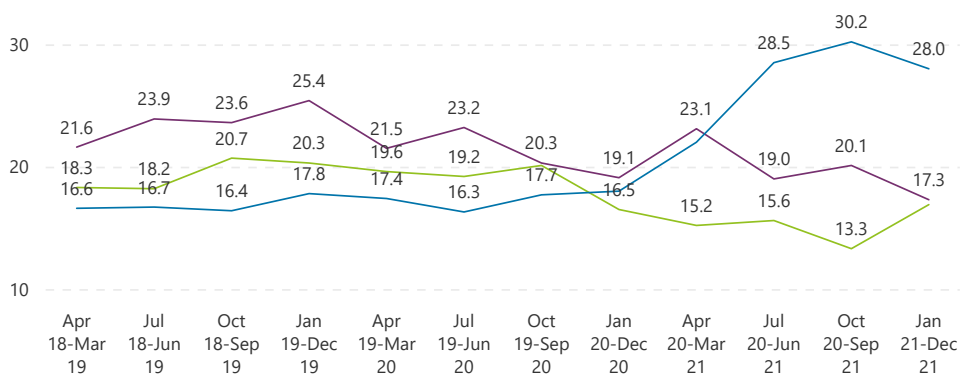
Economic inactivity for the reason of being retired increased from 13% in the previous quarter, the year ending September 2021 to 17% in the year ending December 2021.

## Economically inactive by age

Age	Aged 16-24		Aged 25-49		Aged 50+	
	Apr 19-Mar 20	Jan 21-Dec 21	Apr 19-Mar 20	Jan 21-Dec 21	Apr 19-Mar 20	Jan 21-Dec 21
West Sussex	21,800	27,900	22,100	24,100	211,300	218,000
South East	299,600	353,400	266,900	290,700	1,936,500	2,006,400
England	2,235,700	2,351,500	2,282,200	2,199,000	11,526,900	12,023,400

## Reasons for Economic Inactivity in West Sussex

● % of economically inactive long-term sick ● % of economically inactive retired ● % of economically inactive student



# Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS Claimant Count](#)

Released: 12 April 2022 (March 2022 figures are provisional)

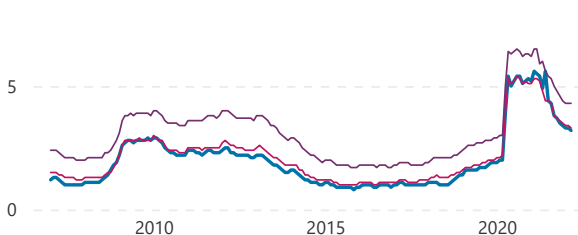
There were 16,325 claimants aged 16+ in West Sussex in March 2022, a decrease of -2% from the previous month. Regional and national claimant figures fell by -2% and -1%.

All the local authority districts saw a fall in claimant figures. Worthing saw the highest decline at -6% followed by Adur at -4%.

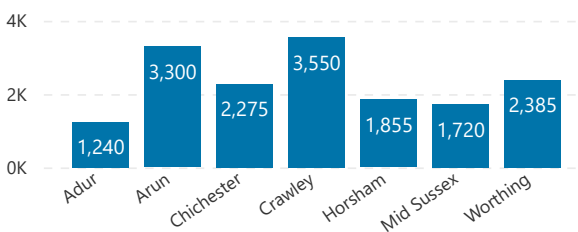
Crawley has the highest number of claimants at 3,550 and also the highest claimant count rate at 4.9%, higher than the regional and national rates. Mid Sussex has the lowest claimant count rate at 1.9%. In West Sussex, % of male claimants aged 16+ fell by -3% and female claimants by -2%.

## Claimant count rate

● West Sussex ● South East ● England

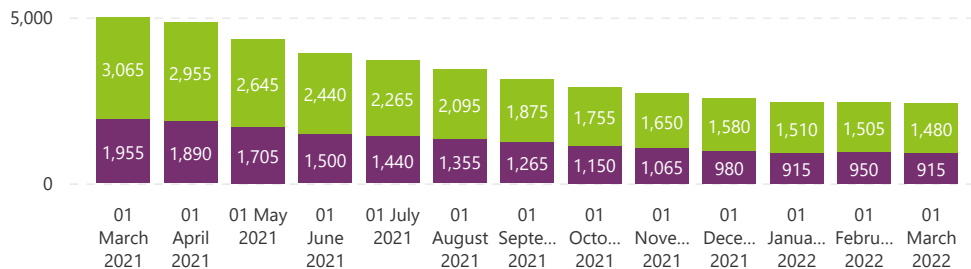


## Number of claimants



## Claimant count by gender, 18-24 age group

● Female ● Male



# Claimant Count, West Sussex

Source: [ONS, Claimant Count](#)

Released: 12 April 2022 (March 2022 figures are provisional)

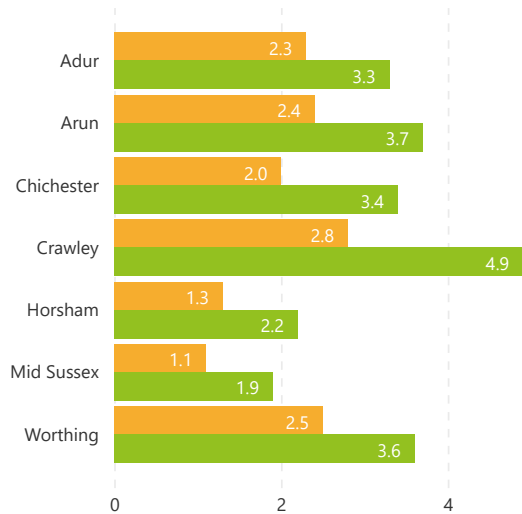
Age profile of claimants: Adur (19.4%) has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds, and Chichester and Arun the lowest at 12.2%. Chichester and Arun have the higher proportion of claimants who are over 50 years.

There are 2,400 claimants aged 18-24 in West Sussex, which is a decrease of -1% from the previous month. National and regional figures also fell by -1% for this age category. Crawley has the highest number of claimants in this age group at 535, followed by Arun 415.

Within West Sussex, over the last month, there was a drop of -2% in claimants amongst males aged 18-24 years; females fell by -4%.

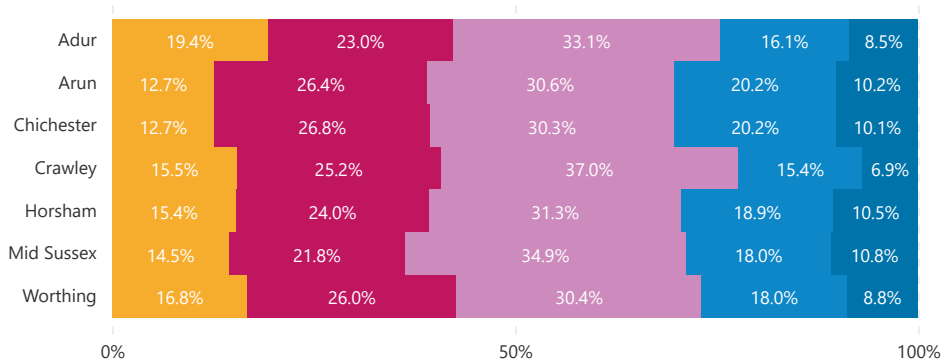
## Claimant count rates change

● 01 March 2020 ● 01 March 2022



## Distribution of claimants by age band

● Aged 16-24 ● Aged 25-34 ● Aged 35-49 ● Aged 50-59 ● Aged 60+



# Universal Credit Claimants, West Sussex

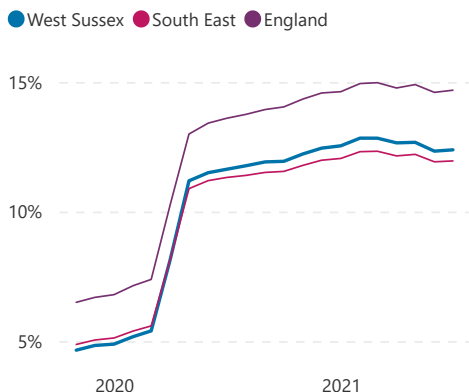
Source: [Department for Work and Pensions](#)

Released: : 12 April 2022 (March 2022 figures are provisional)

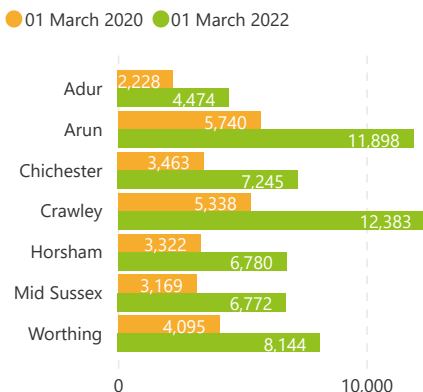
In March 2022, there were 57,692 Universal Credit claimants, which is a 1% increase from previous month. The numbers of people claiming Universal Credit in West Sussex has increased 111% since March 2020 - from 27,355 to 57,692 in March 2022.

Crawley has seen the highest % rise (130%) over the period from March 2020 (at the start of the pandemic) to March 2022 though there has been a significant rise in the number of residents claiming Universal Credit across the county. Please note the latest figures are always provisional and they are not broken down by employment/not in employment.

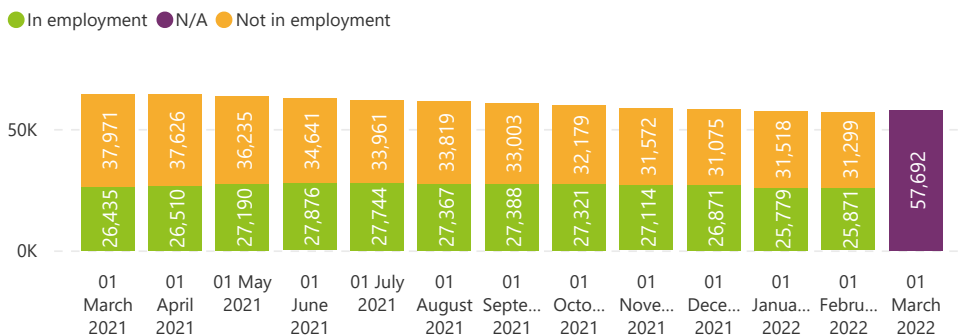
## Percentage of people aged 16-64 years claiming Universal Credit



## Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex change



## Universal Credit claimants in West Sussex by employment status



# Real Time Information Pay As You Earn (RTI PAYE), Employees, West Sussex

Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

Released: 15 March 2022

These figures are from a set of 'experimental statistics' from ONS from the earnings and employment statistics Pay as you Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) seasonally adjusted data set. They have only recently been made available at local authority level, the latest data is up to the month of March 2022 for West Sussex and up to February 2022 for local authority geographies. The latest data shows that Mid Sussex has the highest number of employees at 70,420 in West Sussex and Adur the lowest at 26,654. The timeline of employees in West Sussex shows a decrease from April 2020, at the beginning of the first lockdown and continuing to decrease until March 2021 at which point the employee figures begin to increase. This increase has continued to the current date where the districts of Arun, Chichester, Horsham, Mid Sussex and Worthing are above their original employee figures before April 2020. The districts of Adur and Crawley are currently below their original figures before April 2020.

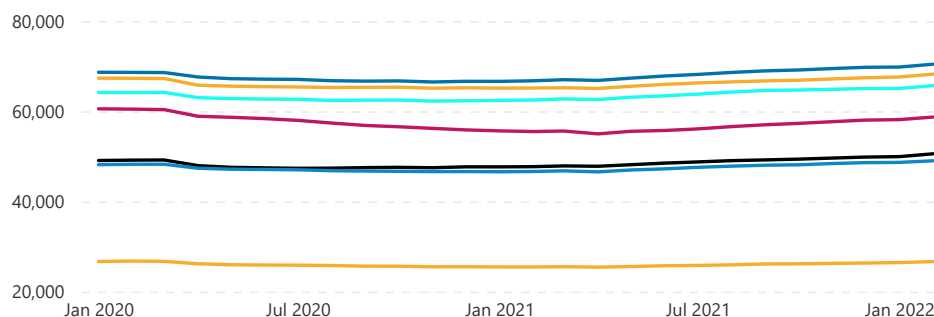
## West Sussex Number of Employees

Location ● West Sussex



## District Number of Employees

Location ● Adur ● Arun ● Chichester ● Crawley ● Horsham ● Mid Sussex ● Worthing



# Real Time Information Pay As You Earn (RTI PAYE), Employees, West Sussex

Source: ONS - [Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted](#)

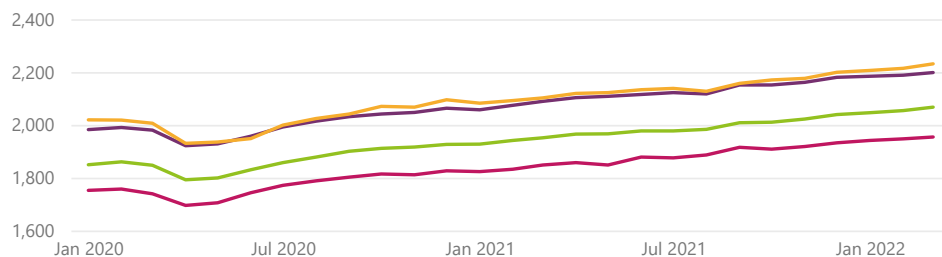
Released: 15 March 2022

As in the previous page these figures are based on the ONS statistics from the earnings and employment Pay As you Earn (Seasonally Adjusted) RTI data set and are up to the month of March 2022 for the UK, South East and West Sussex and up to the month of February 2022 for the districts of West Sussex.. The district with the highest median monthly pay, from the latest figures for February is Mid Sussex at £2,269, and the lowest is seen in Arun at £1,880.

A decrease in median pay can be seen in between the month of March and April 2020 which was the beginning of the first lockdown. Median monthly pay trends then appear to return to pre lockdown levels by July 2020 for all local authorities except for Crawley. Compared to the regional and national median monthly pay, North East West Sussex (Crawley, Horsham & Mid Sussex) has higher monthly pay levels than South West Sussex (Aduar, Arun, Chichester & Worthing).

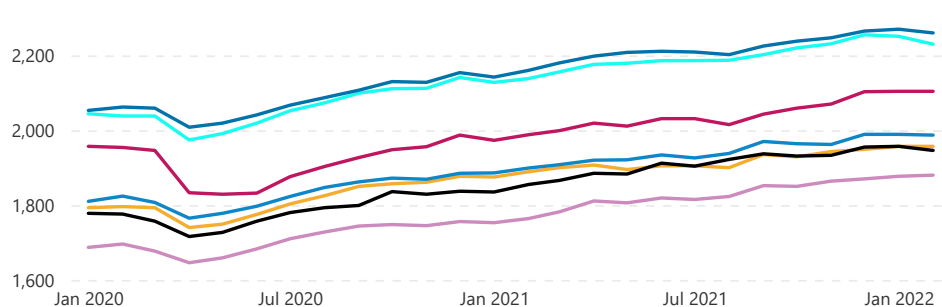
## Median Pay National and Regional Figures

Location ● South East ● UK ● West Sussex (North East) ● West Sussex (South West)



## Median Pay in West Sussex

Location ● Aduar ● Arun ● Chichester ● Crawley ● Horsham ● Mid Sussex ● Worthing



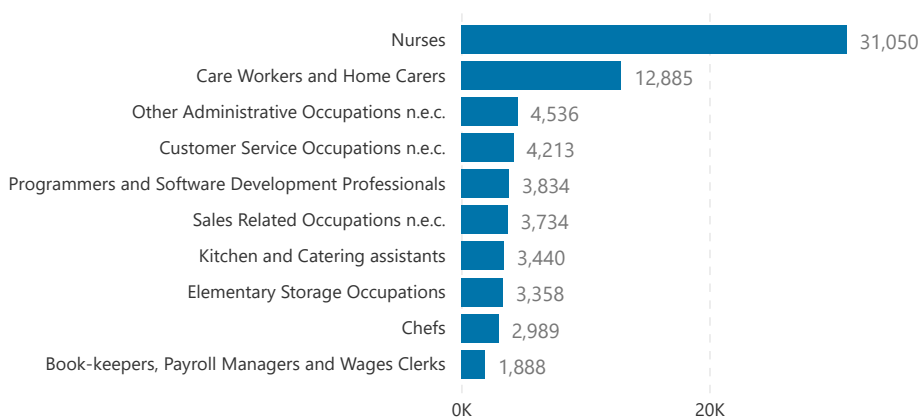
# Job Postings, West Sussex

Source: EMSI

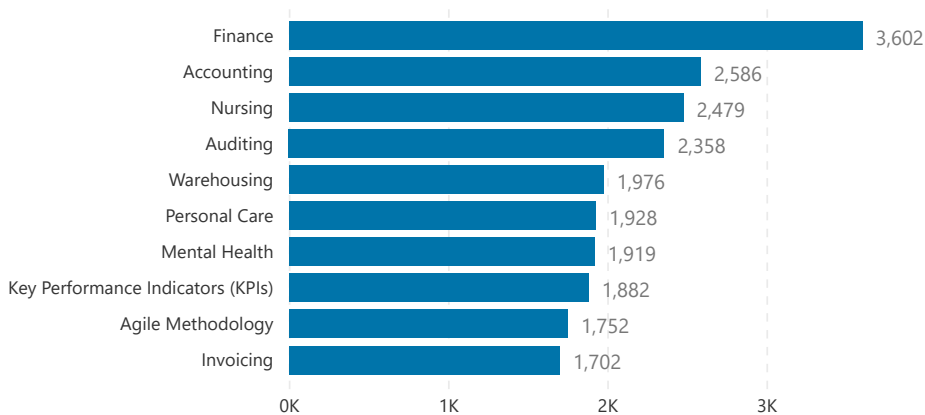
Released: April 2022

In terms of the 'top' posted occupations nurses continue to make up the highest numbers of job postings, with care workers and home carers the second highest. Sales accounts and business development managers are also in demand along with catering industry activities. Top hard skills include finance, accounting and nursing.

## Top 10 posted occupations (total postings Oct 21-Mar 22)



## Top 10 hard skills (total postings Oct 21-Mar 22)



# Google Mobility, West Sussex

Source: [Google](#)

Released: 25 April 2022

These datasets show how visits and length of stay at different places change compared to a baseline. Changes for each day are compared to a baseline value for that day of the week: the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020.

## Grocery & pharmacy

Mobility trends for places like grocery markets, food warehouses, farmers markets, specialty food shops, drug stores, and pharmacies.

4%

## Parks

Mobility trends for places like local parks, national parks, public beaches, marinas, dog parks, plazas, and public gardens.

38%

## Transit stations

Mobility trends for places like public transport hubs such as subway, bus, and train stations.

-14%

## Retail & recreation

Mobility trends for places like restaurants, cafes, shopping centers, theme parks, museums, libraries, and movie theaters.

-16%

## Residential

Mobility trends for places of residence.

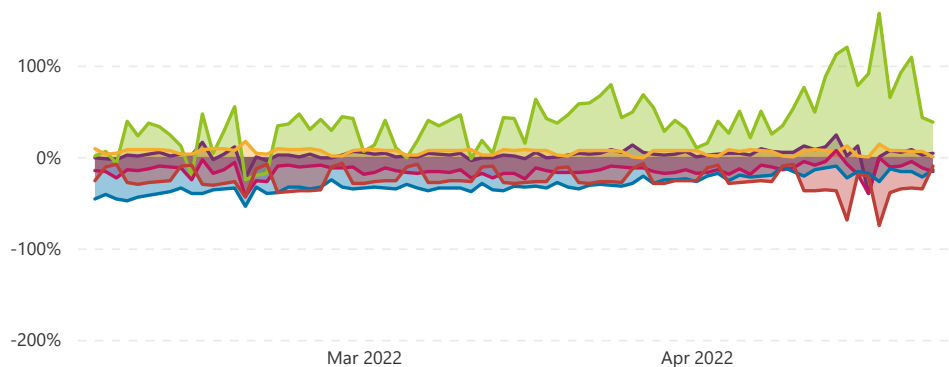
0%

## Workplaces

Mobility trends for places of work.

-10%

● Grocery and Pharmacy ● Parks ● Residential ● Retail and Recreation ● Transit Stations ● Workplaces





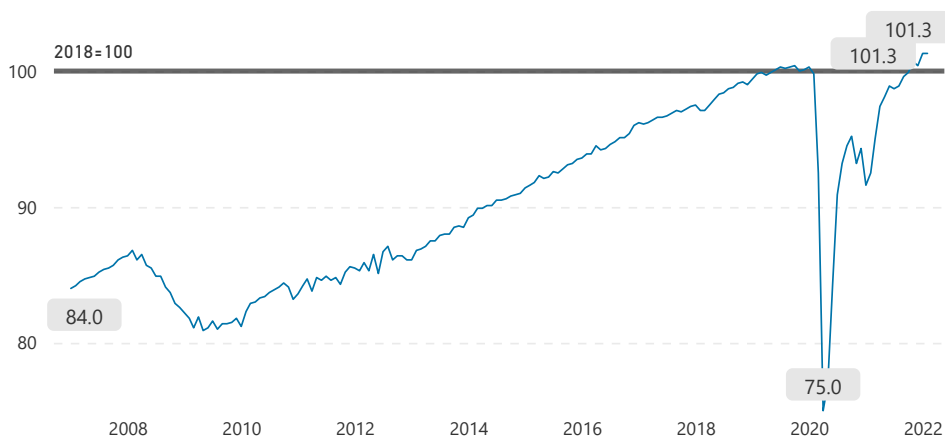
# National Headlines - Gross Domestic Product (GDP), UK

Source: [ONS, GDP Monthly Estimate](#)

Released: 11 April 2022

- Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.1% in February 2022, following 0.8% growth in January 2022, and is now 1.5% above its pre-coronavirus level (February 2020).
- Monthly GDP is now 1.5% above its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic level (February 2020). The main contributor to the recovery from February 2020 to February 2022 was human health and social work activities followed by professional, scientific and technical activities and information and communication.
- Services over the last month grew by 0.2% and was the main contributor to February's growth in GDP; with this growth being partially offset by production, which fell by 0.6% and construction, which fell by 0.1%.
- The services growth over the last month in February 2022 was mainly driven by tourism-related industries with increases in both travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities as well as accommodation, though these services are all below their pre-coronavirus levels.
- Output in consumer-facing services grew by 0.7% in February 2022, following 2.0% growth in January (revised up from 1.7%); non-consumer facing services remained level on the month following 0.5% growth in January (revised down from 0.6%).
- Services is now 2.1% above its pre-coronavirus level, while construction is 1.1% above and production is 1.9% below.

## Monthly index, UK



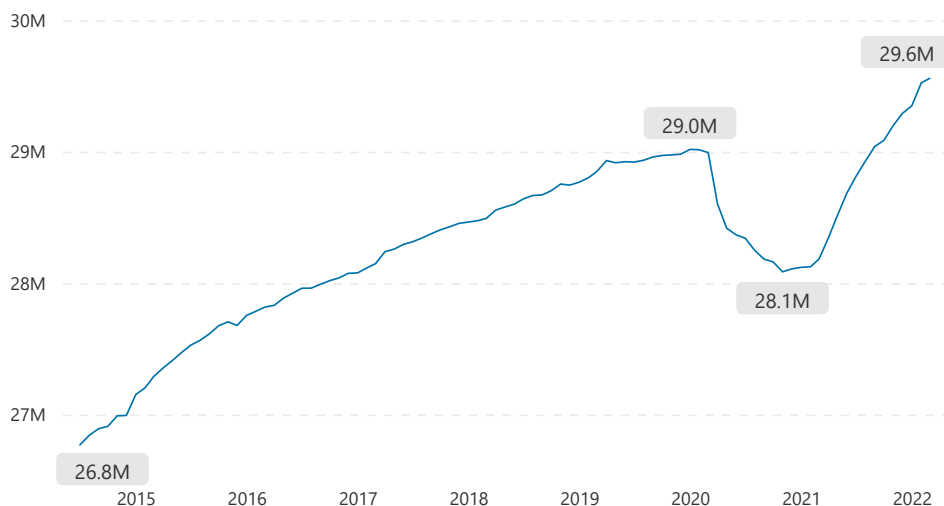
# Labour Market, UK

Source: [ONS, Earning and Employment from Pay As You Earn](#)

Released: 12 April 2022

- Early estimates for March 2022 indicate that the number of payrolled employees rose by 4.9% compared with March 2021, a rise of 1.4 million. Compared with pre-pandemic levels in February 2020 the number of payrolled employees was up by 1.9%; and over the last month there were 35,000 more people in payrolled employment in March 2022 when compared with February 2022.
- All regions of the UK now have higher levels of payrolled employees than in February 2020, with the South East region seeing very similar patterns of growth to that seen in the UK overall.
- All age groups saw an increase in payrolled employees between March 2021 and March 2022, and the 18-24 years age group has seen the greatest increase in payrolled employees since March 2021 – with an increase of 585,000.
- Early estimates for March 2022 indicate that median monthly pay increased by 6.0% compared with March 2021 and increased by 11.2% when compared with February 2020.
- The increase in payrolled employees between March 2021 and March 2022 was largest in the accommodation and food service activities sector (a rise of 374,000 employees) and smallest in the finance and insurance sector (a rise of 1,000).
- Annual growth in median pay for employees in March 2022 was highest in the finance and insurance sector (an increase of 19.7%), and lowest in the arts and entertainment sector (an increase of 1.6%).

## Payrolled employees, seasonally adjusted, UK



# Businesses currently trading, UK

Source: [ONS, Business insights and impact on the UK economy](#).

Released: 21 April 2022

The data presented in this bulletin are the final results from Wave 54 of the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), which was live for the period 4 April – 17 April 2022.

- In early April 2022 94% of businesses reported they were trading, with 84% full trading and 10% partially trading. 4% of businesses were temporarily paused trading and 2% were permanently ceased trading.
- The two main concerns reported by trading businesses continued to be input price inflation and energy prices. In addition supply chain disruption at 5% with the manufacturing industry reporting the highest proportion at 11% was another key concern.
- Over a quarter (29%) of businesses that are trading to some capacity reported that their production and/or suppliers had been affected by recent increase in energy prices; the accommodation and food service activities industry reported the highest percentage at 56%. More than a third of businesses reported that they were having to absorb costs as a result of general price increase, 29% had to pass the price increase onto customers.
- 14% reported that they were experiencing a shortage of workers in early April 2022, compared with 13% in early March 2022; for businesses with 10 or more employees, these percentages were 34% and 31%, respectively.
- In early April 2022, 23% of not permanently stopped trading businesses reported that they were using, or intending to use, increased homeworking as a permanent business model, with improved staff well-being reported as the main reason for doing so, at 60%.

# Businesses Closures, UK

Source: Gov.uk, [Monthly Insolvency Statistics](#)

Released: 22 April 2022

Data for England and Wales on company insolvencies shows that there were 2,114 in March 2022, more than double the number registered in the same month in the previous year (999 in March 2021), and 34% higher than the number registered three years previously (pre-pandemic; 1,582 in March 2019).

From the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic until mid-2021, overall numbers of company and individual insolvencies were low when compared with pre-pandemic levels. While CVL numbers are now higher than pre-pandemic levels, numbers for other insolvency procedures, such as compulsory liquidations for companies and bankruptcies for individuals, remain lower. These trends are likely to be partly driven by government measures put in place to support businesses and individuals during the pandemic, including:

- Temporary restrictions on the use of statutory demands and certain winding-up petitions (leading to company compulsory liquidations).
- Enhanced government financial support for companies and individuals.

On 30 September 2021, some of these temporary measures either ended or were replaced by new tapering measures. On 31 March 2022, all of the remaining temporary insolvency measures ended.

## Company insolvencies in England & Wales

